

MAKE THE MOST OF THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

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FIREFLIES-SPOTTING
TRIPS TO SIGN UP FOR

Now's the ideal time to sign up for a wonderful natural spectacle that unfolds in and around the Sahyadris

**Purushwadi calling**

The fireflies' festival season is here, as summer transitions to monsoon. It's the perfect time to spot these natural wonders. The Purushwadi Fireflies Festival will celebrate the natural phenomenon that occurs when they produce light as a mating pattern using bioluminescence. With the window limited to the early monsoon, it is a rare opportunity to spot these visitors.

FROM June 11 till 26, 2.30 pm
LOG ON TO www.treksandtrails.com
COST ₹2,699

Nighttime wonders

Located between Matheran and Panvel in Raigad district, Prabalmachi is one of the locations to experience the sighting of fireflies. It is a base village for the Kalavantin and Prabalgad forts. Since it is over 2,000ft above sea level, participants are bound to witness this event from a different angle altogether.

TILL June 26, 7.30 pm to 9.30 am
MEETING POINT Panvel Station ticket counter, Navi Mumbai. **LOG ON TO** www.mumbaihikers.com
COST ₹800 onwards

Heightened visuals

Often mistaken for beetles or flies, fireflies are blessed with a spectacular visual appearance that offers enthusiasts a memorable experience, before the rains approach. Located over 3,000 ft above sea level, Kothaligad, often known as Peth, with a temple and a cave, these sites are bound to make the trek even more memorable for participants.

ON Every Saturday, 11.30 pm to Sundays, 11 am (following day)
MEETING POINT Karjat junction. **LOG ON TO** insider.in
COST ₹800 onwards

Bright escape

At Rajmachi, expect to witness a magical sight of fireflies in full luminescence at night. The trip will include a hike towards Rajmachi Lake and Godhaneshwar temple and will also be able to relish homemade food from a villager's home. On the second day, they will venture on a hike to the twin forts Shrivardhan and Manaranjan in the vicinity.

ON Every Saturday, 5.33 pm to Sundays, 12 pm (following day)
MEETING POINT Khopoli Station. **LOG ON TO** insider.in
COST ₹1,400

Dot of the matter

CANVAS IN THE CITY

CSMVS celebrates its centenary with SH Raza, in a show that traces his artistic and personal journey as a landscape artist

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OVER the course of his artistic journey, Sayed Haider Raza moved from painting water-colour landscapes, experimentations with Western art movements when he was in Paris, and later to geometric abstraction as he often returned to his homeland and sought to connect with the Indian forest landscape. This year, his centenary coincides with that of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS). To celebrate his oeuvre, Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation's (JNAF) exhibition Zamin: Homelands traces his journey through his idea of belonging and experiences of migration evident in his work as a landscape and diaspora artist in pursuit of a modern Indian visual language.

Curator of the show, Puja Vaish, tells us, "This exhibition traces Raza's personal journey and explores his landscapes through a conception of land and the places that held meaning for him in shaping his world view; and his landscapes in connection with ideas of nature, social and cultural environment, and nationhood — as a conception of place, displacement and belonging."

Most of the works showcased



SH Raza's Zamin, 1971

are from the 1960s to the '70s. The works are not displayed chronologically, instead their order brings out the resonance between the paintings from different periods, and so you can witness the shift in the portrayal of the same landscape. Vaish notes, "Raza was aware of his position as an Indian artist." She explains that as a young artist at the cusp of India's independence, he carried with him, as did his contemporaries, the hope and aspiration of a new nation and the mobility it afforded. And this included being at par with global art movements where these artists felt the need to define Indian art.

This was also a time when ideas that were distilled in his later works were born. A recurring and iconic motif in Raza's abstract work is the bindu that is representational of various associations such as dark, light, seed, meditation, reverberation, the sun, world and cosmos. Abstraction, a Western form, offered Raza the space to infuse in it Eastern philosophy, mysticism,

and spirituality. Charged with ancient and sacred concepts, his works emanate a type of energy. Vaish says, "Raza infused meanings and energy into his landscape." She continues that the artist approaches the landscape almost as if it were a pilgrimage. Along with the experiences of belonging and migration imbibed in his work, the bindu — a meditative form — seems only fitting for a seeking artist.

The show comprises 35 paintings in a multi-partnership between the museum, JNAF, Art Musings and The Raza Foundation. It also includes photographs of Raza, his letters, brushes and palette for a holistic view of the artist's life of migration, the social realities of his time alongside his artistic journey.

TILL July 31 at 10.15 am to 6 pm; Walkthrough on June 11 at 3 pm
AT Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, CSMVS, Mahatma Gandhi Road. **COST** ₹100



SH Raza's photographs, brushes and palette. PICS COURTESY/ JEHANGIR NICHOLSON ART FOUNDATION, MUMBAI



Genesis 1996, acrylic on canvas; (Below) SH Raza, Amar Kantak, 2000. PIC/SANGITA JINDAL COLLECTION



SH Raza

by Jehangir Nicholson